

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed July 7, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Status

Claims 1-26 were pending. Claims 1-5, 7-17, and 19-24 were rejected. Claim 6, 18, 25 and 26 were objected to but have been indicated as would be allowable. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable claims. To expedite the prosecution and place the present application in a condition for allowance, claims 1-5, 7-17, and 19-24 are cancelled and claim 6, 18, 25 and 26 are accordingly amended herein. By this Amendment, claims 6, 18, 25 and 26 are pending.

Claim Objections

Claim 6, 18, 25 and 26 were respectively objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As amended, claims 6, 18, 25, and 26 are now in independent form and include all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5, 7-17 and 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-5, 7-17 and 19-24 are cancelled herein, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-5, 7-17 and 19-24 were rejected as being anticipated by DiDomizio (U.S. Patent No. 6,523,028). Claims 1-5, 7-17 and 19-24 are cancelled herein, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place the present application in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include any acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance of all pending claims 6, 18, 25 and 26 is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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